When do CIA, FBI chiefs lie?

SF Exam 11/22/11

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The late CIA Director Allen W. Dulles told the Warren Commission that the FBI and CIA directors might lie to anyone but the President to conceal identities of their undercover agents, according to recently declassified documents.

The documents are quoted in a book published today about the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination entitled "Whitewash IV" by Harold Weisberg, a Frederick, Md., writer and investigator.

He lost a suit against the government seeking release of the documents. However, the National Archives declassified the information and sent him copies.

Dulles, a member of the Warren Commission who died in 1969, took part in a discussion Jan. 27, 1964, about whether directors J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI and John A. McCone of the CIA would answer truthfully questions on whether Lee Harvey Oswald had ever worked for either of their agencies.

The documents declassified included a verbatim transcript of that executive session of the commission.

"I think under any circumstances, I think Mr. Hoover would say certainly he didn't have anything to do with this fellow," said Dulles, who was no longer CIA director at the time.

The book also quotes Dulles as saying: "I would tell the President of the United States anything, yes, I am under his control . . . I wouldn't necessarily tell anybody else, unless the President authorized me to do it."

At one point in the discussion the book quotes the late Sen. Richard B. Russell as saying to Dulles: "If Oswald never had assassinated the President, or at least been charged with assassinating the President and had been in the employ of the FBI and somebody had gone to the FBI, they would have denied he was an agent."

Dulles responded: "Oh, yes."

Russell then said: "They would be the first to deny it. Your agents would have done exactly the same thing."

Dulles said: "Exactly."

Hoover told the commission when he was questioned on May 14, 1964: "I can most emphatically say that at no time was he (Oswald) ever an employe of the bureau in any capacity, either as an agent or as a special employe, or as an informant."

McCone was asked by the committee's general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, whether Oswald "had any connection with the CIA, informer, or indirectly as an employe, or any other capacity."

McCone replied: "I have determined to my satisfaction that he had no such connection . . ."

Weisberg said he does not believe Oswald killed Kennedy but has no idea who did.

San Francisco Examiner

11-22-74

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